

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SAJ-01 /087 W

-----251837Z 039395 /42

R 251210Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 236

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SE, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS SEYCHELLES

1. AMBASSADOR A. CHVEDOV, DESCRIBED AS HEAD OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT IN SOVIET MOFA AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY V. DOLGUINE VISITED SEYCHELLES JANUARY 21-22 WHILE ENROUT TO PARIS FROM TRIP TO MADAGASCAR AND MAURITIUS. ACCORDING STATE HOUSE OFFICIAL, INVITATION WAS APPARENTLY EXTENDED BY PRIME MINISTER F.A. RENE AND DELIVERED BY LABOR MINISTER FERRARI (EITHER PERSONALLY OR THROUGH MAURITIAN MMM LEADER BERENGER) DURING HIS RECENT UNSCHEDULED VISIT TO MAURITIUS. HIGHLIGHTS OF 16-HOUR VISIT WERE PRIVATE, HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH RENE AND LUNCHEON HOSTED BY RENE WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY GOS MINISTERS.

2. ALL SOURCES AGREE THAT INVITATION TO SOVIETS WAS EXTENDED WITHOUT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF PRESIDENT MANCHAM WHO WAS AWAY FROM SEYCHELLES ON PRIVATE VISIT FROM JANUARY 9-23. ACCORDING CHIEF OF SPECIAL BRANCH, MANCHAM WAS "EXTREMELY UPSET" WITH HANDLING OF THIS IMPORTANT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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MATTER, AREA FOR WHICH MANCHAM IS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE UNDER COALITION GOVERNMENT.

3. NEWS OF VISIT OF SOVIET OFFICIALS HAS BEEN KEPT OFF RADIO AND OUT OF PRESS. EXPATRIATE JOURNALIST AT GOVERNMENT-OPERATED DAILY TABLOID, SAID HE HAD PRODUCED ROUTINE NEWS ARTICLE ON VISIT BUT THAT RENE HAD KILLED STORY SAYING HE

FIRST HAD TO DISCUSS "ALL ASPECTS OF MATTER" WITH MANCHAM.

4. COMMENT: IT IS PRESENTLY UNCLEAR WHETHER VISIT OF SOVIET OFFICIALS WILL EXPEDITE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENT SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN SEYCHELLES. ACCORDING PARTICIPANTS, SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP DURING LUNCHEON. HOWEVER, WHILE AWATING JANUARY 23 RETURN OF PRESIDENT MANCHAM AT AIRPORT, MINISTER FOR FINANCE CHAMERY CHETTY TOLD CHARGE THAT SOVIETS HAVE DEFINITELY DECIDED TO SET UP AN EMBASSY IN SEYCHELLES AND ARE PLANNING TO SEND AN ADVANCE TEAM IN 4-6 WEEKS TO LOOK FOR PROSPECTIVE SITE.
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Message Attributes

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